

Today, Rep. Braley sent a letter to the Secretary of Transportation urging him to use stimulus funds for the proposed Chicago to Dubuque passenger rail route.

**Friday, July 10, 2009**

**Washington, DC** - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) today sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood expressing his support for Illinois and Iowa's application for a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fund the Chicago-Dubuque passenger rail line.

"The Chicago-Rockford-Dubuque passenger rail corridor is an essential addition to the Midwest Regional Rail System," the letter states. "The infrastructure improvement projects in this corridor are eligible for ARRA funds and the states of Illinois and Iowa have demonstrated their commitment to making this a sustainable route."

"Passenger rail will create jobs in the short term and economic opportunity down the line, attracting businesses to Iowa," Braley said. "I encourage Secretary LaHood to fully consider the grant application for Dubuque to Chicago passenger rail and help make this plan a reality."

\$8 billion of the AARA was earmarked for intercity and high speed passenger rail, and the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act signed into law earlier this year includes \$90 million for intercity rail. Track improvements for the Dubuque to Chicago line are estimated to cost \$32.3 million. The route will serve Dubuque, Rockford, and northern Illinois with one round trip daily. The estimated annual ridership along the route is 77,500.